

Application No. 09/822,653
Amendment dated September 21, 2004
Reply to 1st Office Action of July 6, 2004

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Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claim 16 has been amended.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bauer (US Pub 2001/0024967 A1) ("the Bauer publication").

Regarding independent claim 1, the Examiner states that the Bauer publication "discloses a portable electronic device comprising a user interface[]; a lighting circuit including a light sensor to illuminate the user interface[]," and refers to Fig. 3, item 7 of the Bauer publication as indicative of one of the elements of independent claim 1 of the present invention. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Bauer publication describes the power consumption reduction by disconnecting all or part of a liquid crystal display itself: "disconnection of a part of the display device [] yields a reduction of the power consumption in liquid crystal displays (the Bauer publication, paragraph 0004); "Two separate sections 2, 3 of the display device can be activated independently []" (the Bauer publication, paragraph 0011). The Bauer publication does not describe or suggest any controlling of illuminating the display or the user interface such that the display or the user interface can be seen by a user. Independent claim 1 of the present invention states:

1. A portable electronic device comprising:
a user interface;
a lighting circuit including a light source to illuminate the user interface;
and
a control circuit coupled to the lighting circuit, the control circuit having a delayed operation mode wherein a first activation of the user interface illuminates the user interface without performing any other operation of the device and a second activation of the user interface performs an operation of the device other than illuminating the user interface.

Further, independent claim 1 does not include a light sensor, and does not sense the ambient light level. Therefore, independent claim 1 is distinguishable from the Bauer publication, and is patentable over the Bauer publication.

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Regarding dependent claims 2 and 3, because dependent claims 2 and 3 depend from, and include all the limitations of, independent claim 1, dependent claims 2 and 3 are patentable over the Bauer publication.

Regarding dependent claims 4 and 5, because dependent claims 4 and 5 depend from, and include all the limitations of, independent claim 1 and dependent claim 3, dependent claims 4 and 5 are patentable over the Bauer publication.

Regarding independent claim 6, the Examiner rejects claim 6 with the same reason as the rejection for independent claim 1. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. As stated in the argument in support for independent claim 1, the Bauer publication describes the power consumption reduction by disconnecting all or part of a liquid crystal display itself, and does not describe or suggest any controlling of illuminating any component. Further, although in the Bauer publication the light sensor may be used to "evaluate the level of the ambient light," (the Bauer publication, paragraph 0014), it is only suggested to be used "to switch over partial display" from the full display, and is not described or suggested to be used to "illuminate the input device []." Therefore, independent claim 6 is distinguishable from the Bauer publication, and is patentable over the Bauer publication.

Regarding dependent claims 7, 9, and 10, because dependent claims 7, 9, and 10 depend from, and include all the limitations of, independent claim 6, dependent claims 7, 9, and 10 are patentable over the Bauer publication.

Regarding dependent claim 8, because dependent claim 8 depends from, and includes all the limitations of, independent claim 6 and dependent claim 7, dependent claim 8 is patentable over the Bauer publication.

Regarding independent claim 11, the Examiner rejects claim 11 with the same reason as the rejection for independent claim 1. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. As stated in the

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arguments in support for independent claims 1 and 6, the Bauer publication describes the power consumption reduction by disconnecting all or part of a liquid crystal display itself, and does not describe or suggest any controlling of illuminating any component. Therefore, independent claim 11 is distinguishable from the Bauer publication, and is patentable over the Bauer publication.

Regarding dependent claims 12, 14, and 15, because dependent claims 12, 14, and 15 depend from, and include all the limitations of, independent claim 11, dependent claims 12, 14, and 15 are patentable over the Bauer publication.

Regarding dependent claim 13, because dependent claim 13 depends from, and includes all the limitations of, independent claim 11 and dependent claim 12, dependent claim 13 is patentable over the Bauer publication.

Regarding independent claim 16, independent claim 16 has been amended to correct a typographical error. The Examiner rejects claim 16 with the same reason as the rejection for independent claim 1. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. As stated in the arguments in support for independent claims 1, 6, and 11, the Bauer publication describes the power consumption reduction by disconnecting all or part of a liquid crystal display itself, and does not describe or suggest any controlling of illuminating any component. Therefore, amended independent claim 16 is distinguishable from the Bauer publication, and is patentable over the Bauer publication.

Regarding dependent claims 17, 18, 19, and 20, because dependent claims 17, 18, 19, and 20 depend from, and include all the limitations of, amended independent claim 16, dependent claims 17, 18, 19, and 20 are patentable over the Bauer publication.

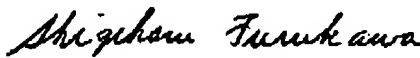
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In view of the discussion above, the Claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Kindly withdraw any rejections and objections and allow this application to issue as a United States Patent without further delay.

Respectfully submitted,
Abbasi,

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